GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2723
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2016
Deonar Dumping Ground
Somaiya Dr. Kirit

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received several representations/ complaints regarding the environmental hazard caused by the dumping ground at Deonar and closure of the same and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the action taken by the Government for protection of the environment in the adjacent localities of Deonar Dumping Ground;
(c) whether the Government is aware of the fire in Deonar Dumping Ground which went on for almost 7 days resulting in severe environmental pollution in the area and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the remedial measures being contemplated by the Government to prevent such environmental hazards in future in the country including Mumbai?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (c)The Government has received information and representations regarding the problems of garbage disposal system of Mumbai and associated environmental problemsincluding that of dumping ground at Deonar.The Government is also aware about the fire hazard in January and March, 2016 at Deonar dumping ground. The measures taken by the Government for environmentally sound management of garbage disposal include directions by Maharashtra Pollution Control Board to the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai (MCGM) to undertake remedial action for scientific closure of the landfill,arrangements for venting / flaring / utilization of the methane gas from the dumps, spray of environment friendly deodorant to control odor, composting of organic waste etc.

Deonar dump site visit was undertaken by Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to have a direct assessment of the prevailing conditions and problems. A Central team also visited the site for scientific study of the site conditions and to suggest remedial measures. At the same time a meeting of stake holders was convened in the Ministry which was attended by Municipal Commissioner, Mumbai Municipal Corporation, Principal Secretary, Environment, Government of Maharashtra, Member Secretary, Maharashtra State Pollution Control Board and representatives of Central Pollution Control Board. It was inter-alia decided in the meeting that Mumbai Municipal Corporation will undertake immediate measures to arrest the fire, preventive measures like scientific closure of the site, security system to be put in place, facility to rag pickers to move in the site, methods for release of the inflammable gases; and to develop the systems for scientific collection and disposal of solid waste from entire Mumbai city.

(d) For effective environmentally sound management of problems associated with solid waste, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has comprehensively revised the Solid Waste Management rules in April, 2016 in supersession of the Municipal Solid Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2000, after sixteen years. These rules apply to all urban areas in the Country including Mumbai. These rules aim source segregation of waste in to three streams, Wet (Biodegradable), Dry (Plastic, Paper, metal, wood, etc.) and domestic hazardous wastes (diapers, napkins, empty containers of cleaning agents, mosquito repellents, etc.) and to channelize dry waste like paper, plastic, glass, metal etc. for recycling & reuse, wet wastes from kitchen and food for composting or bio-methanation, or anaerobic digestion or any other appropriate processing for bio-stabilization of biodegradable wastes; waste to energy processes including refused derived fuel for combustible fraction of waste or supply as feedstock to solid waste based power plants or cement kilns and only inert to landfills so that the possibility of generation of methane and thereby fire hazard could be eliminated.

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